



Ø BEAT



COLORADO SPRINGS,
COLORADO

MARCH 1990

PIKES PEAK RADIO AMATEUR ASSOCIATION, INC.

P.O. Box 16521
Colorado Springs, CO 80935

FIRST CLASS MAIL



Ø BEAT



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* denotes the first year of a two-year term.

ZERO BEAT is published monthly in the interest of the members of the Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association, Inc., P.O. Box 16521, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80935. Cost is 50¢ per month for non-members or a \$6.00 per year subscription. Permission is given to reprint articles or excerpts provided credit is given. Deadline for submission of articles is the 21st of the month. Classifieds accepted anytime.

The Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. All amateurs and interested parties are invited to attend.

EDITOR: Ron Deutsch NKØP 4305 Ridgeline Drive Colorado Springs, Co. 80918 (719) 593-8352 or 145.01 (Packet)

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Quite a bit has happened since last month's newsletter. First of all, the club logo has been found. By the time you read this it should be back at the ShirtStop at 2351 E. Platte Place. Stop by and have a club jacket made just for you.

Over the last couple of weeks I have been signing out books of raffle tickets for the upcoming swapfest. The grand prize is an ICOM IC-735 Transceiver, a really nice little rig that would look nice in anyone's shack. Right now we have over 600 tickets signed out but there are plenty more to go around. As an added incentive this year, we have a special deal for club members only. For each book of tickets that you sell, we will give you a free raffle ticket. Our goal is to sell every one of the 2600 tickets we printed this year. I'll be at the Saturday breakfasts with the tickets every weekend between now and the swapfest (excluding Dayton weekend of course). So help yourself to some free tickets by helping me get rid of all these tickets. Who knows, you might even win the grand prize with that one extra ticket.

ICOM has been in touch again concerning the swapfest. According to Cindy Omlin, ICOM will be shipping approximately 2000 pounds of radios, hats, bags and assorted goodies to our swapfest. Each time I talk to Cindy, I am impressed with her enthusiasm and am genuinely convinced that ICOM is excited about displaying in the Colorado Springs market. Since our last conversation a couple of weeks ago, ICOM has increased their space requirements to 40 feet of table space. I put in a personal request for them to bring the new IC-670 multi-band UHF/VHF rig, but whatever they bring I'm sure you won't want to miss the ICOM display.

I only wish that ICOM dealers in the state of Colorado were as enthusiastic about the opportunities presented by our swapfest as is ICOM. To date we have been unable to lure any factory authorized ICOM dealers into a swapfest commitment. If you feel as I do and would like the chance to not only play with display models but satisfy the urge to buy a new rig on the spot, call or stop by the local CW Electronic Sales outlet or Colorado Comm in Denver. Let them know there is a market for ham gear in Colorado Springs and that you would like to see them present on May 18th.

Before I quite for the month, I would like to put in yet another plug for the Saturday morning breakfast. Attendance has been falling off lately as some of the regulars have moved away and some have found other activities for Saturday mornings. Sheron, manager at the Village Inn, has been very supportive of ham activity and has provided valuable raffle prizes for many club meetings. Come on down for a cup of coffee and an "eyeball". I guess that's about it for this month.

Hope to see you at the next club meeting on March 14th, where the program will be a presentation on severe weather.

73's Rick

"THE VIEW FROM THE PEAK"

by George Hinds, N8CIX

I'll start out this month with a comment. In a February '0 BEAT' column, Malcolm, KE9S, recalled my January 1989 article noting amateurs are steadily declining in numbers.

Malcolm cited figures from "WORLD RADIO" newsletter showing an average growth in amateurs by all license classes of 6.9%. He said that, contrary to what I had written, "It looks to me that our numbers are increasing instead of declining."

Would that it was true! What they overlook is the rest of the story. With the issuance of 10-year licenses in January 1984 and previous 5-year licenses expired after 1988, no longer is there an accurate count of amateurs inactive, dropped out, or deceased.

About 15,000 hams didn't renew in 1987 - 13,000 in 1988. In the 5 years to follow, if losses continue at the same rate, about 70,000 hams will appear on FCC rolls that in earlier years would have been deleted from the data base.

In the FCC statistics appearing in the February 15 issue of "W5YI Report" was the following note:

"Again we remind you that the U.S. amateur service is not really expanding at a 6.9% rate. Due to the implementation of the 10-year term license in 1984, there were 32,086 less renewals this year. (35,836 for the 1988 calendar year only 3,739 for all of 1988.) Assuming the same drop-out rate, if you adjust for this difference, the number of U.S. amateurs would be 441,155 or 1,418 less than a year ago - a loss of .32%. The actual growth rate in the amateur service continues to decline." [Source: FCC, Gettysburg, PA]

DISASTER STRIKES IN NORTH CAROLINA

In early December a storm swept through the eastern seaboard region of North Carolina. First it was only rain; then temperatures dropped and it became freezing rain. Wires, poles, and antenna structures took on heavy loads of ice into the dawn.

Near Raleigh three 2,000' TV towers were in a triangle about a mile apart. The towers carried TV and FM station antennas and equipment, commercial repeaters, and amateur repeaters at various levels. About 8:30 that Sunday morning, the first tower fell, carrying with it a ham two-meter repeater system. An estimate of the weight of ice

on the upper two-thirds of the structure was ONE MILLION POUNDS!

Soon, a second tower came crashing to the ground. With it, besides the usual complement of commercial gear, were three amateur repeaters: two on two meters and a UHF system. Everything on both towers was a total loss. Heavy guy wires, as thick as one's arm, pulled apart. Metal boxes containing the radio and TV equipment had to be dug from the twisted metal with bulldozers and back-hoes.

The third tower remained standing. Much of the amateur equipment was not insured. The North Carolina Department of Emergency Management has donated some General Electric equipment, for two of the amateur repeaters are integral links in the regional disaster communications ham radio network.

73, George, N8CIX

TRANSMITTER HUNT REPORT

February's hunt was a good one! Four groups participated and all found the transmitter within an hour. It was hidden in a tree in Palmer Park.

The hunt for March will be run by Malcolm Benton, KE9S. It will start as usual, at 12:00 noon from the Colorado Springs East Library.

Contact Bill, WR0Y for further information. (719) 598-6778.

NOTICE!! NOTICE!! NOTICE!!

THE NEXT ISSUE OF 0-BEAT WILL BE A COMBINED APRIL/MAY ISSUE. IT WILL GO OUT TO ALL LICENSED AMATEURS IN EL PASO AND TELLER COUNTIES. IT WILL BE MAILED SHORTLY AFTER MAY 1, 1990. SUBMISSIONS FOR THIS ISSUE SHOULD BE SENT TO THE EDITOR BY APRIL 15, 1990. SPACE WILL BE AT A PREMIUM FOR THIS ISSUE SO GET YOUR NOTICES AND ARTICLES IN EARLY!! WE WILL TRY TO RUN A FULL PAGE OF FORSALE ITEMS FOR PPRAA MEMBERS BUT IT WILL BE ON A FIRST COME FIRST SERVED BASIS. THIS WILL BE A RARE OPPORTUNITY TO ADVERTISE TO OVER 1,000 LOCAL AMATEURS.

73a Ron, NKOP, Editor



THE AMERICAN RADIO RELAY LEAGUE, INC.

SECTION MANAGER

Eddie Sheffield, KA0MQA
1444 Roslyn Street
Denver, Colorado 80220
303-355-2488

QST
OFFICIAL JOURNAL

COLORADO SWAPFESTS

Feb. 18, 1990	A.R.A. Swapfest Jefferson County Fairgrounds, Golden, Colorado Contact: WD0HNQ 450-6910
April 7, 1990	LARCFEST Boulder County Fairgrounds, Longmont, Colorado Contact: WA2EKU
May 5, 1990	The Western Slope ARC Swapfest Holiday Inn, 755 Horizon Dr., Grand Junction, Colorado Contact: KB0CCS 243-9427
May 19, 1990	Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association Hamfest Rustic Hills Shopping Mall, Colorado Springs, Colorado Contact: NK0P 719-593-8352
June 9, 1990	SUPERFEST Larimer County Fairgrounds, Loveland, Colorado Contact: KA0TTH 686-9594
June 16, 1990	Durango ARC Hamfest CANCELLED Durango, Colorado Contact: N0KTE 247-3858
July 7, 1990	Ski Country Swapfest Colorado Mtn. College, Glenwood Springs, Colorado Contact: K9MMW 945-8722
July 15, 1990	Denver Radio Club Swapfest Jefferson County Fairgrounds, Golden, Colorado Contact: WS00 472-1101
July, 1990	Mountain ARC Swapfest & Cookout Red Rocks Campground, Woodland Park, Colorado Contact: N8CIX 719-687-2610
Sept. 23, 1990	BARCFEST Boulder County Fairgrounds, Longmont, Colorado Contact: WB0ZID or N0BWS 530-1872
Nov. 4, 1990	RMRL Swapfest Jeffco Senior Citizens Center, 6845 Wadsworth, Wheatridge Contact: KB0Z 458-5444

EVENTS

Mar. 24, 1990	CCARC Meeting 1:00 p.m. Jeffco Senior Citizens Center, Wheatridge, Colorado
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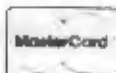
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GENERAL MEETING PPRAA

FEB. 14, 1990

The meeting was called to order by President RICK WB7THT at 1900 by the introduction of each member and guest.

Minutes were approved as printed in OBEAT.

The treasurer's report was:

Previous bal \$1 261.93

Expenses \$1 39.43

Income \$552.98

Balance of \$1 685.48

Committee reports:

RFI JEFF NOJLH 561-8438 NIL

EDUCATION BUD NODDF 475-0537 next novice class in April.

DAB SCHOOL BUD NOAA 888-2993 NIL

ARES MIKE KOTER 636-1280 JOHN NOKIC EL-PASO REP, BUD NOAA TELLER COUNTY need volunteer to head up severe weather net.

Public service events:

Walk for mankind saturday April 21

Colorado Games last weekend in July

Rocket launch if here 2nd weekend Aug.

31 March -1st April super cities walk

March of dimes May 20.

CCARC OAK K0ROL NIL

This summer will try from Fort Knox a tropo-spheric ducting on 450 mhz to Pikes Peak.

John NOKIC reported on a tri city breakfast at Penrose on March 6th.

VE TESTING MAX KDOEL 488-9286, next exam March 10 at Chapman College Flintridge and Academy, pre registration required except for **NOVICE EXEMPT**.

OBEAT RON NKOP 593-9352, deadline for March issue is 1 March.

SWAPFEST RICK WB7THT 2500 tickets printed. Still need a ticket chairperson.

ICOM is bringing 3 people. Everything else going OK. Need a ticket chairperson.

FIELD DAY MAX KDOEL, in need of another tower for field day.

OLD BUSINESS:

Jackets may be purchased at The Shirt Stop.

NEW BUSINESS:

Next board meeting at QTH of Ron, NKOP.

Had short intermission.

Meeting resumed with DAVE NOION conducting the monthly raffle.

Prize winners were:

ROSIE WADNML MEAL AT VILLAGE INN

DICK KBOWX COAX CABLE

RUSS KB0FNM APRIL HANDBOOK

DAVE NOION OEM GIFT CERTIFICATE

WILL NQHRD COAX CABLE

ROXY KEOOW TAPE WINDER

LORRAN LEE RADIO LISTENING BOOK

RICK WB7THT RADIO DATA BOOK

BILL KQOH CALL BOOK

The program was put on by STEVE ELSWICK Electrical Engineer at UNISYS, also president of TESLA SOCIETY, and President of High Energy Enterprises, been involved with Tesla Technology since 1984, it was a very interesting and enlightening program.

Meeting adjourned at 20:45, had small turn out do to the snow storm.

submitted by AL NOCMW SEC PPRAA

BOARD MEETING

FEB 22, 1990

Held at QTH of RON NKOP.

Present: WADNML ROSIE, RUSS KB0FNM, RON NKOP, LAUREN KX00, AL NOCMW, FLOYD KB0FCN, FAYLENE KB0FTN, RICK WB7THT.

Field day June 23-24 and picnic August 5:

Floyd KB0FTN is working out a few details on reservations of space.

RON NKOP has ordered mailing labels for the mass mailing issue of OBeat.

The reactivated Mars station at Peterson AFB has requested us to hold a novice class for them.

Next board meeting will be at QTH of ROSIE WADNML, on MONDAY following our regular meeting.

Rustic Hills Mall is considering advertising in our special issue of OBeat.

ICOM will be at the swapfest May 18th.

Rick needs help on selling tickets.

A proposal was made and passed that for every ten tickets sold by a member he or she would receive a free ticket.

Any person wanting to buy at least \$5.00 worth of tickets and can not get out to get them Rosie and Russ will deliver them to them and collect the money.

Being no further business meeting was officially adjourned at 20:55.

submitted by AL NOCMW SEC PPRAA

HOME PROJECTS

author unknown

Since Spring is just around the corner I feel the subject of safety should be addressed. One area of the hobby can be rather dangerous if proper and careful planning has not been accomplished. I'm speaking of antenna installations. Let me relay this story of a fellow amateur who did not think ahead.

This gentleman is sitting at his desk answering a letter from his insurance company.

"I am writing in response to your request for additional information for block number three of the accident reporting form. I put poor planning as the cause of my accident. You said in your letter I should explain more fully and I trust the following detail will be sufficient.

I am a amateur radio operator and on the day of the accident, I was working alone on the top section of my new 80 foot tower. When I had completed my work, I discovered I had, over the course of several trips up the tower, brought up about 300 pounds of tools and spare hardware.

Rather than carry the now un-needed tools and material down by hand, I decided to lower the items down in a small barrel by using a pulley, which fortunately was attached to the gin pole at the top of the tower. Securing the rope at ground level, I went to the top of the tower and loaded the tools and material into the barrel. Then, I went back to the ground and untied the rope, holding it tightly to insure a slow decent of the 300 pounds of tools. *You will note in block number eleven of the accident reporting form, that I weigh only 155 pounds.*

Due to my surprise of being jerked off the ground so suddenly, I lost my presence of mind and forgot to let go of the rope. Needless to say, I proceeded at a rather rapid rate of speed up the side of the tower. In the vicinity of the 40 foot level, I met the barrel coming down. This explains my fractured skull and broken collar bone.

Slowed only slightly, I continued my rapid ascent, not stopping until the fingers of my right hand were two knuckles deep into the pulley. Fortunately, by this time, I had regained my presence of mind and was able to hold on to the rope in spite of my pain.

At approximately the same time, however, the barrel of tools hit the ground and the bottom fell out of the barrel. Devoid of the weight of the tools, the barrel now weighed approximately 20 pounds. |

Continued on page 8

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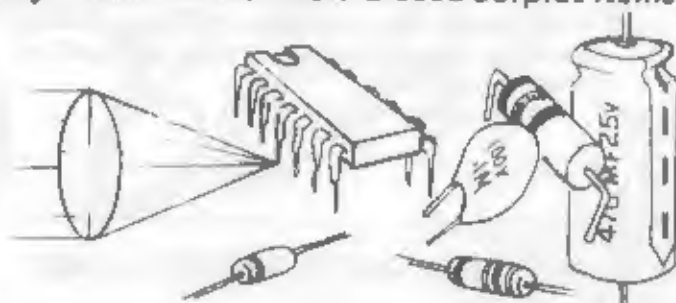
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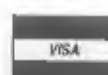
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refer you again to my weight in block number eleven.

As you might imagine, I began a rapid descent down the side of the tower. In the vicinity of the 40 foot level, I met the barrel coming up. This accounts for the two fractured ankles and the lacerations of my two legs and lower body. The encounter with the barrel slowed me enough to lessen my injuries when I fell onto the pile of tools and fortunately, only three vertebrae were cracked.

I am sorry to report, however, that as I lay there on the tools, in pain, unable to stand and watching the empty barrel 80 feet above me. I again lost my presence of mind.

I let go of the rope."

NEXT MEETING IS MARCH 14, 1990

SPEAKER: NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

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AND BITS

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WANTED: Rohm 25, one 10 foot straight section. Hal, W0M0XY, 471-0238.

FOR SALE: Heath HD-1250 Solid State Grid Dip Meter, \$50. TI99/4A computer w/disk drive, 32K expansion memory, Serial/parallel I/O, modem, \$295. Henry Ruther, 898-6582.

FOR SALE: Kenwood TS-120 VFO, \$75. Prop Pitch motor, \$50. Eico 369 TV/FM sweep generator, \$60. Sencore CG18 Solid State Color Bar generator, \$40. G. Flynn, W0MHV, 835-1909.

Membership Application
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